



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The L.Z. Thomas School at 533 Main Street is one of two nearly identical grammar schools constructed around the same time in Hanson in the Georgian Revival style (see form no. 12). The simply massed schoolhouse consists of a one-story, nine-bay wide gable block augmented by a wide, one-story rear ell producing a T-shaped footprint. Both of these masses are elevated on a high foundation to accommodate a full basement story. The symmetrically fenestrated facade has ribbons of four large-scale windows (now boarded up) on either side of the centered entry. The majority of ornamental detailing is concentrated upon the centered gabled bay and entry which is distinguished from the other wall surfaces by its horizontal boards and quoins. The slightly recessed entry is framed by a broken pediment and Tuscan pilasters. The largely horizontal emphasis of the building mass is counter-balanced by the louvered ventilator centered on the ridge pole. The school building has a suburban set back on a sizable, largely unlandscaped, lot except for the overgrown shrubbery around the foundation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The presence of schools in Hanson predates its 1820 incorporation, dating back to 1754. At the time of the town's incorporation five school districts were organized: Cushing, Barstow, Lowden, Cox, and Barker. Ten years later the total number had expanded to nine districts. In 1867 the district system was abolished. A three member School Committee became responsible for overseeing the local schools. In 1952 the committee was expanded to five members. The school is named for Levi Z. Thomas, a teacher in Hanson for twenty years and an early and long-time school committee member. As a school committee member in 1867 Thomas recommended the abolishment of the district system and replacement with five primary and two grammar schools. The L. Z. Thomas School, designed by J. D. Leland & Co. of Boston (about whom nothing is known at this time), was constructed in 1929 at a cost of over \$36,000. The contractors were H. J. Beal & Son. By 1937 the school was used by the entire town for grades seven and eight.

REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856

Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
40-24

USGS Quad
Hanover

Area

Form #
7

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **533 Main Street**

Historic Name **L.Z. Thomas School**

Use: Present vacant

Original school

Date 1929

Source History of the Town of Hanson

Style/Form Georgian Revival

Architect J. D. Leland & Co.

Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete

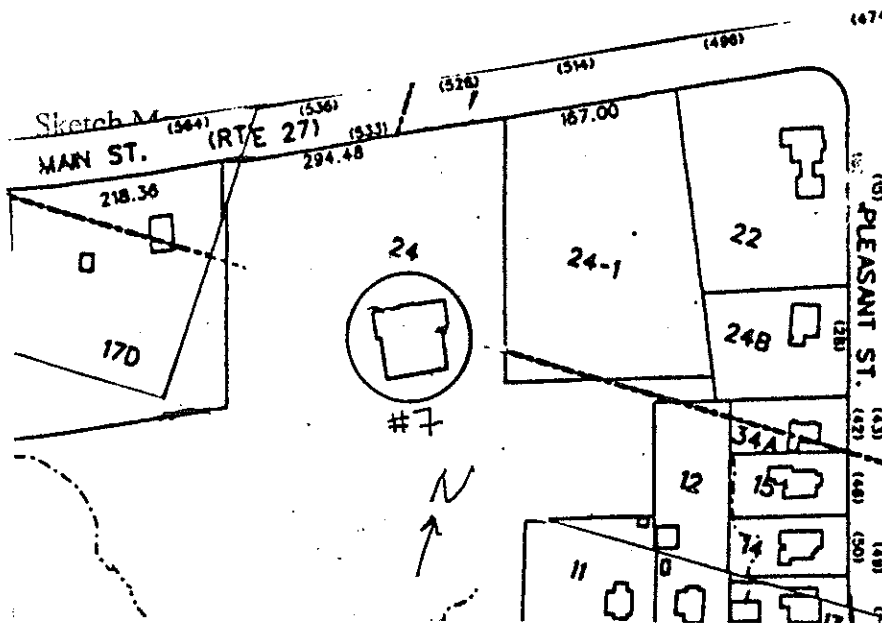
Wall/Trim brick

Roof slate

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations none

Condition fair



Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Hanson

Property Address
533 Main Street

Area

Form #
7

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer.**

The L. Z. Thomas School at 533 Main Street is one of two nearly identical grammar schools constructed around the same time in Hanson in the Georgian Revival style. The simply massed schoolhouse consists of a one-story, gable block augmented by a sizable one-story rear ell and a full basement story. Though presently not in use the building retains its original form and stylistic detailing. Its construction in 1929 demonstrates Hanson's need for consolidated but increased school room space at the time. The L. Z. Thomas School meets criteria A and C at the local level. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.